

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, CY, TU

SUBJECT: NIMETZ-DIMITRIOU MEETING, APRIL 5

1. CYPRIOT AMBASSADOR DIMITRIOU CALLED ON COUNSELOR NIMETZ APRIL 5 TO SEEK FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE DEPUTY SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT IN ANKARA. HE WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED, HE SAID, IN LEARNING WHETHER WE HAD EXTRACTED ANY COMMITMENTS FROM THE TURKS REGARDING CYPRUS.

2. NIMETZ SAID THAT WE HAD OBTAINED NO COMMITMENTS OR GUARANTEES FROM THE TURKS ON CYPRUS. WE TOLD ECEVIT THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAD DECIDED TO ATTEMPT TO REMOVE THE PRESENT UNFORTUNATE LOGJAM IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

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WHICH SERVED NOBODY'S INTERESTS. WE DID NOT SEEK ANYTHING SPECIFIC FROM HIM IN EXCHANGE. WE OF COURSE EXPLAINED TO THE GOT THE POLITICAL REALITIES IN WASHINGTON AND MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT A HARD BATTLE WAS TO BE ANTICIPATED IN THE CONGRESS. IN THIS CONTEXT WE EXPRESSED TO THE TURKS OUR EXPECTATION THAT THEY WOULD TAKE CONSTRUCTIVE ACTION ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE.

3. NIMETZ ADVISED DIMITRIOU THAT THE BEST COURSE WOULD BE TO WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS OVER THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT THE TURKS AND TURKISH CYPRIOTS ARE PRESENTLY FINALIZING THEIR PROPOSALS AND ARE CONSIDERING DATES FOR SUBMISSION. HOWEVER, WE HAVE RECEIVED NO OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION AS TO WHEN THIS MIGHT BE. NIMETZ WENT ON TO SAY THAT ECEVIT HAD OUTLINED HIS VIEWS ON CYPRUS IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE DEPUTY-SECRETARY, EMPHASIZING HIS COMMITMENT TO A FEDERAL SYSTEM AND HIS READINESS TO WORK FOR A REASONABLE TERRITORIAL SETTLEMENT. BUT NO CONCRETE DETAILS HAD BEEN PASSED TO US. NIMETZ SAID THAT IT REMAINED THE U.S. EXPECTATION THAT THE TURKS WOULD PRESENT PROPOSALS THEY BELIEVED TO BE FORTHCOMING ON BOTH THE CONSTITUTIONAL AND THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE.

4. DIMITRIOU EXPRESSED DISBELIEF THAT WE HAD OBTAINED SO LITTLE FROM THE TURKS IN EXCHANGE FOR SO MUCH. HAD WE APPLIED NO PRESSURE ON THEM REGARDING CYPRUS? IN RESPONSE, NIMETZ EMPHASIZED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEW PROGRAM WOULD NOT PROVIDE THE TURKS WITH MUCH MORE THAN HEY WOULD OTHERWISE RECEIVE. HE underscored the significance of our decision to abandon the DCA, noting that this had prompted difficult discussions with the Turks.

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IN ADDITION, WE WOULD BE DISPENSING NO GRANT AID IN THE COMING FISCAL YEAR, AND THE PLANNED DOLS 50 MILLION SSA LOAN WAS LARGELY SYMBOLIC IN VIEW OF THE MAGNITUDE OF THE TURKISH BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEM. LIFTING THE EMBARGO WAS PRIMARILY OF PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE.

5. DIMITRIOU underscored the GOC'S BELIEF THAT THE EMBARGO WAS ABOVE ALL A MORAL ISSUE, DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE TURKISH INVASION AND OCCUPATION. THE CYPRIOTS HAD COME TO TRUST THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION IN VIEW OF ITS REPEATED ASSURANCES OF LINKAGE, AND NOW FELT DEEPLY DISAPPOINTED AND LET DOWN. DIMITRIOU EXPRESSED STRONG DOUBTS AS TO WHETHER ECEVIT WOULD NOW BE FORTHCOMING, AND REITERATED HIS SENSE OF DISBELIEF THAT WE HAD SECURED NO SPECIFIC UNDERSTANDING FROM THE TURKS ON CYPRUS.

6. NIMETZ SAID THAT IT WAS HIS BELIEF THAT ANY DEMANDS WE MIGHT HAVE MADE ON THE TURKS REGARDING CYPRUS WOULD INEVITABLY HAVE BEEN REBUFFED, AND THERE MIGHT THEN HAVE BEEN NO PROPOSALS AT ALL. WE HAD BEEN CONFRONTED WITH A SITUATION WHERE OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH TURKEY HAD SERIOUSLY DETERIORATED AND WHERE NO PROGRESS WAS BEING

MADE ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE. WE FELT THAT NOW THERE WAS A BETTER CHANCE TO MOVE FORWARD ON CYPRUS. OUR PRESENT LEVERAGE WITH THE GOT WAS TWOFOLD: FIRST, TURKISH RECOGNITION THAT ONLY THE CONGRESS COULD REPEAL 620(X);

AND SECOND, RENEgotiation OF THE DCA. RENEgotiation WOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE DROPPING THE IDEA OF A MULTI-YEAR COMMITMENT.

7. TURNING TO THE POSSIBILITIES FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS, NIMETZ SAID THAT THE GOC SHOULD BE NOW THINKING ABOUT HOW TO RESPOND TO THE PROSPECTIVE TURKISH PROPOSALS (ASSUMING THEY DID MATERIALIZE). WE HOPED VERY MUCH THAT THE GOC'S REACTION WOULD NOT BE GEARED PRINCIPALLY TO INFLUENCING

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VOTES IN CONGRESS, BUT WOULD INSTEAD BE ONE OF STUDYING THE PROPOSALS VERY CAREFULLY WITH A VIEW TO EARLY RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS. NIMETZ SAID IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT THE GOT, AND ECEVIT HIMSELF, HAD INVESTED MUCH TIME AND EFFORT IN DEVELOPING THESE PROPOSALS, AND THAT THEIR SUMMARY REJECTION BY THE GOC MIGHT CAUSE THE TURKS TO TURN AWAY FROM THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND MAKE NO EFFORTS TO RESOLVE IT FOR SEVERAL YEARS. NIMETZ STRESSED THAT THE PRESIDENT WAS COMMITTED TO MAINTAINING THE MOMENTUM OF OUR CYPRUS EFFORT, AND NOTED THAT THE SUCCESS OF OUR POLICY WOULD IN FACT BE WIDELY JUDGED IN THE LIGHT OF WHAT HAPPENS ON CYPRUS.

8. IN RESPONSE TO DIMITRIOU'S FURTHER PROBING AS TO TURKISH ASSURANCES, NIMETZ SAID THAT THE GOT HAD NOT WITHDRAWN EARLIER STATEMENTS IT HAD MADE IN PUBLIC--AND TO THE SECRETARY IN PRIVATE--THAT CONCRETE AND REASONABLE PROPOSALS WOULD BE SUBMITTED. HOWEVER, WE HAD BEEN GIVEN NO INFORMATION AS TO TIMING. VANCE

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